



Drug/Drug Class:	Macrolides PDL Edit
First Implementation Date:	May 25, 2005
Revised Date:	January 12, 2023
Prepared For:	MO HealthNet
Prepared By:	MO HealthNet/Conduent
Criteria Status:	□ Existing Criteria⊠ Revision of Existing Criteria□ New Criteria

Executive Summary

Purpose: The MO HealthNet Pharmacy Program will implement a state-specific preferred drug list.

Why Issue Selected:

Macrolide antibiotics reversibly bind to the P-site of the 50S ribosomal subunit of susceptible organisms and may inhibit RNA-dependent protein synthesis. They may be bacteriostatic or bacteriocidal, depending on such factors as drug concentration. There are currently four macrolides available in the U.S. They are all equally efficacious for the treatment of most community-acquired infections, but some have better tolerability and allow for once to twice daily dosing. The most common adverse effects are gastrointestinal in nature (i.e., abdominal discomfort, vomiting, diarrhea), are often dose dependent, and occur more often in children. Macrolides, particularly erythromycin and clarithromycin, pose a risk of QT prolongation and should be used cautiously in patients at risk of developing arrhythmias or when used concomitantly with other medications that may alter cardiac function.

Total program savings for the PDL classes will be regularly reviewed.

Program-Specific Information:

pecific	Preferred Agents	Non-Preferred Agents
ation:	 Azithromycin Pwd Packet/Susp/Tabs 	Clarithromycin ER
	Clarithromycin Susp/Tabs	• E.E.S. 200 [®] Susp
	 Erythromycin Base DR Caps 	• E.E.S. 400 [®]
	Erythromycin Ethylsuccinate	• EryPed®
	Susp/Tabs	Ery-Tab®
		 Erythromycin Base DR Tabs
		 Erythromycin Base Tabs
		Zithromax®

Type of Criteria:	☐ Increased risk of ADE	☑ Preferred Drug List	
	☐ Appropriate Indications	☐ Clinical Edit	
Data Sources:	☐ Only Administrative Databases	□ Databases + Prescriber-Supplied	

Setting & Population

- Drug class for review: Macrolide Agents
- Age range: All appropriate MO HealthNet participants

Approval Criteria

- Failure to achieve desired therapeutic outcomes with trial on 2 or more preferred agents
 - Documented trial period for preferred agents OR
 - Documented ADE/ADR to preferred agents

Denial Criteria

 Lack of adequate trial on required preferred agents Therapy will be denied if all approval criteria are not met 				
Required Documentation				
Laboratory Results: Progress Notes: Other:				
Disposition of Edit				
Denial: Exception Code "0160" (Preferred Drug List) Rule Type: PDL				
Default Approval Period				
1 year				

References

- Evidence-Based Medicine Analysis: "Macrolides", UMKC-DIC; February 2022.
- Evidence-Based Medicine and Fiscal Analysis: "Macrolides Therapeutic Class Review", Conduent Business Services, L.L.C., Richmond, VA; June 2021.
- USPDI, Micromedex; 2022.
- Facts and Comparisons eAnswers (online); 2022 Clinical Drug Information, LLC.